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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" As I said, Malabar District Board is running with a big deficit—a deficit of Rupees 1·22 lakhs in its general account and a deficit of Rs. 16 lakhs in its elementary fund account. But the matter is being re-examined with a view to see whether economy can be effected in some other directions and the savings utilized for this purpose."

SRI P. B. K. RAJACHIDAMBARAM :—" Sir, when the District Boards can spend thousands without the Government's sanction on opening as many dispensaries as they like, why should the Government stand in the way of medical aid through a mobile van and thereby save further expenditure on medical relief, especially at a time when qualified medical men are not available for giving medical relief in the rural parts? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" All schemes of new expenditure which a District Board is entering upon are, I think, subject to control and examination."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" What do the Government mean, Sir, by ' skippo van '? Has it anything to do with skipping? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It may be some name, the name of the maker or the manufacturer."

DR. T. S. SOUNDARAM RAMACHANDRAN :—" Considering the difficult financial condition of the Government and that district boards, as one hon. Member suggested, are allowed to spend lots of money on starting dispensaries and maintaining them, is it not good to encourage private institutions to carry on the work at less expense to the Government? Will they declare the policy of subsidizing or helping private agencies and district boards to extend their medical relief and maternity relief? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Each question will be considered on its merits and also with reference to the availability of funds."

SRI A. APPU :—" Since the financial position of the district board is very bad, will the Hon. Minister consider the question of transferring the van to the Headquarters Hospital at Calicut and utilize it for medical aid in Chevaur firka where there are no dispensaries or hospitals or any kind of medical aid at all? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" That question does not arise out of the answer to the main question? "

Jurisdiction of the District Welfare Officers.

* 236 *Q.*—SRI M. RAJESWARA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether District Welfare Officers are empowered to take up well works and other acquisition proceedings in the Development firkas also?

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" The jurisdiction of the District Welfare Officers extends to the entire district

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with which they are concerned, including the firkas selected for Rural Welfare Scheme. They are not, therefore, prohibited from taking up any ameliorative work relating to the Harijans in the firkas selected for Rural Welfare Scheme."

SRI M. RAJESWARA RAO :—" In view of the fact that none of the departments was doing the work of constructing wells, especially for Harijans, will the Government issue instructions that this work should be accelerated by both the departments? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" The question of accelerating the works will be attended to."

SRI S. NARAYANAPPA :—" May I know the functions of the District Welfare Officers? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" Their functions are to carry out the work of the Harijan Welfare department."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" In view of the large amount of work entrusted to the District Welfare Officers, will the Government consider the question of providing jeeps to all District Welfare Officers, at least at the rate of one jeep for each district? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" At the present moment, it is very difficult to supply jeeps."

* 237 Q.—SRI M. LAKSHMANASWAMY :—" In view of the importance of this question, I request that it may be taken up tomorrow."

MR. SPEAKER :—" All right."

Grants to district boards.

* 238 Q.—SRI K. V. VEMA REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether representations were made to the Government about the deficit budgets of several district boards in the State and to make good the deficit budgets by allotment of increased grants for smooth running of administration and if so, what action the Government has taken in the matter?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Some district boards applied for grant to cover deficit in their accounts. The district boards have been asked to economise their expenditure to the extent possible, as there was abnormal increase of expenditure since 1951-52. Grants have been sanctioned to certain district boards having heavy deficits during the current year (1952-53) as specified below :—

		RS.
(1) Anantapur District Board	...	1,25,000
(2) West Godavari District Board	...	2,10,000
(3) Chittoor District Board	...	2,90,000
(4) Nellore District Board	...	1,75,000